

CLINTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS



FROM CCRTA PRESIDENT, DON OSTROM

Volume 5, Issue 1

Website: www.weebly.ccrta.com

February 5, 2020

CCRTA's next meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2020 at Trenton House



Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

2815 W. Washington Street
Springfield, IL 62702

www.trsil.org

Your pension check should reflect a 3% increase as of February 1st

CCRTA Officers for 2019

President:

Donnie Ostrom

Vice President:

????????????

Secretary:

Kay Ostrom

Treasurer:

Paula Williams

Membership Chair:

Mary Ann Kauling

Legislative Chair:

Kelley Kesterson

Foundation Chair:

Cynthia O'Neill

Members Benefit Chair:

Leon Luber

CCRTA Election of Officers

At the December 5th meeting of CCRTA the election of officers was held for 2020–2021. Donnie Ostrom was elected - President, No Vice-President was elected, Kay Ostrom was elected Secretary and Paula Williams was elected Treasurer. We are still looking for a Vice-President.

A Special thanks to past President Kelley Kesterson and Jan Kauling past Treasurer. Kelley has served CCRTA as President and Vice-President twice. Jan Kauling has been the Treasurer for many years and did a great job. Jan also served as President of CCRTA. Please thank them for their service to CCRTA.

Supporting The IRTA Foundation

In 1985, after identifying a large number of former educators who were experiencing financial difficulties because of low pensions and rising inflation, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association established the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, Inc. The initial purpose of the Foundation was to build an endowment to provide assistance to retired educators.

Since that time, the Foundation has assisted retired educators with living expenses, provided scholarships to aspiring teachers, worked to protect the rights of the elderly, and provided grants to educators.

The money for the IRTA Foundation comes from fund raising and donations from IRTA members and Units. Please contribute to the IRTA Foundation and support all of the IRTA scholarship and Grant programs.

SAVE THE DATES

2020 Meeting Dates

- 1. March 5, 2020 at Trenton House**
- 2. June 4, 2020 at Route 50 Café, Carlyle**
- 3. Sept. 3, 2020 at Trenton House, Trenton**
- 4. Dec. 3, 2020 at Bretz's Winery, Carlyle**

All Meetings Begin at 11:30 am

2020 PROGRAMS

JULIE OSTROM, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW: TOPIC WILLS, TRUSTS, POWER OF ATTORNEY, DIRECTIVES 3/5/2020

6/4/2020
TBA

CCRTA LIFE TIME EDUCATOR AWARD
9/3/2020

CARLYLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND
12/3/2020

CCRTA AND IRTA DUES FOR 2020

CCRTA will accept 2020 dues at the March meeting. The cost for a one year membership to CCRTA is \$10.00. The cost of a life time membership to CCRTA is \$100.00. Dues are payable at the meeting or you can send a check to our Treasurer, Paula Williams. Paula's address is as follows:

Paula Williams
14400 Baumann Road
Highland, IL 62249

Please make checks payable to the CCRTA.

I recommend that you also join the Illinois Retired Teachers Association in Springfield. You may go on-

line for information at www.irtaonline.org. The cost is \$2.50 a month and is deducted from your pension check. You can become a life time member with a one-time payment of \$400.00. Members who joined IRTA prior to 2018 can write a \$40 check each year to maintain membership. Since 2019, all new members were required to use **Dues Deduct** from their monthly pension check. Your membership in IRTA has many benefits. It is the State Association that protects your pension and benefits. A member has access to group plans that sell dental and vision insurance, life insurance, and discounts on travel and hotels. These are only a few of the benefits offered by IRTA to its members.

IRTA HAS A NEW LOGO

Look what has changed. After much debate by the Executive Board, the IRTA has decided to change its logo after many years. Here are the Old and New Logos:



OLD LOGO



NEW LOGO

Many members felt the old logo did not identify the retired educators upfront. The executive Board used the membership committee to come up with a new design. After much debate the Board of Directors agreed to the design above. The new logo clearly tells people the name of the organization, whereas the old logo only used letters. The Lincoln Hat is a symbol recognized and associated with the State of Illinois. Look for the new logo on the website and on other IRTA Newsletter, Documents and Notices.



CCRTA CHRISTMAS MEETING

More than 40 retirees attended the CCRTA Christmas Meeting at Bretz's Winery in Carlyle, Illinois. Ensembles from the Carlyle High School Band under the direction of Jamie Zettler, performed Christmas songs and carols. The performance was outstanding.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Spouses can join CCRTA and IRTA as associate members. The cost to join CCRTA is only \$10.00 per year and the cost to join IRTA is only \$25.00 per year or \$125.00 for Lifetime Membership.

CCRTA welcomes Tom Ritzheimer, husband of Patti Ritzheimer.

THE LUCKY WINNER!

Attendance prizes were announced and one lucky winner was Ron Daniels, Regional Superintendent.



IRTA NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE:

The new website has the same address: www.irtaonline.org

IF you have not looked at the IRTA website in the past few weeks, it is time to take a look at the newly developed website for IRTA. The IRTA, in connection with the company, AMBA, that provides the additional benefits to IRTA members, constructed the new website.

The newly constructed website is easier to use and contains more information. This website now has a search feature that allows the user to find information faster and easier. **A help sheet is on the last page.**

NEWS FROM THE IRTA OFFICE IN SPRINGFIELD

New IRTA Comptroller

Maureen Shaner, the Comptroller at IRTA, has retired. The Executive Board has employed Erica Pinkley as the new Comptroller. She started her work on January 6th. Erica was previously employed for six years by the Illinois Pharmacist Association. Erica has her Masters Degree in Business Administration from Benedictine University and her Bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Illinois/Springfield. Erica has hit the ground running, our auditors are in the office this week.

Government Affairs Coordinator

In 2018, Mary Shaw, the IRTA Grassroots Coordinator for Government Affairs, passed away. Since that time Jim Bachman, the IRTA Executive Director has been looking for someone to fill that position. The position requires a working knowledge of the Illinois legislature and a relationship with those legislators. Mr. Bachman is in the process of interviewing a candidate that has the qualifications necessary to fill that position.

IRTA Building Loan

The IRTA building at 828 S. 2nd Street loan is due to be renewed. The Executive Committee is in the process of renewing the loan on the building. The organization owes approximately \$500,000.00 on the building. The committee would like to pay off the loan in five to eight years and are presently reviewing bank offers to provide said loan.

CCRTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

CCRTA is always seeking retired educators to join our group. If you know of a public school retiree who does not belong, please invite them to a meeting. There are many IRTA members in Clinton County that do not attend or belong to CCRTA. If you know of a newly retired teacher, please invite them to a meeting.



Enjoyable conversation at the December meeting. Many CCRTA members can be found discussing vacation spots, family news and where to go to find a good time in our area. Ron Daniels asked if any one would be interested in substitute teaching. There is a need for substitutes in every school. Call his office if you are interested.

Minutes of the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association

December 5, 2019 at Bretz Winery, Carlyle, IL.

The meeting was called to order by President Kelley Kesterson at 11:35 am. The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Leon Lubber. Current CCRTA officers were introduced, as well as guest, Ron Daniels, Regional Superintendent. Spouses of members were also introduced.

The Carlyle High School Band, under the direction of Mrs. Jamie Zettler, performed Christmas music. Our group enjoyed hearing the holiday music performed by various ensembles. Mrs. Zettler explained that half the band was performing elsewhere.

Donnie Ostrom reported that this was his last meeting as IRTA Region 16 Director. A member from Hamilton County will be the new Region 16 Director. Donnie Ostrom was elected as IRTA Treasurer at the IRTA Convention in October. Donnie reported that IRTA needs to add new members because we lose approximately 1200 members per year as our membership ages.

Old Business: Minutes of the September 5, 2019 meeting published in the newsletter were approved. Motion to approve by Vernetta Homann and seconded by Pehg Zeller. Approved by acclamation.

Jan Kauling, Treasurer, reported Checking account balance is \$193.91 and Savings account balance is \$3287.20. She said it was necessary to transfer \$100.00 from savings to checking because the checking account was less than \$100.00. The accounts were audited by Milton Luginbuhl and no irregularities were found. Jan collected CCRTA dues for 2020. Jan Kauling and Paula Williams will go to the bank and complete new signature cards for both checking and savings accounts. Jan Kauling will remain on the signature card and Milton Luginbuhl will be removed from both accounts. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Jan Wilsey, seconded by Milton Luginbuhl. Approved by acclamation.

Ron Daniels, Regional Superintendent spoke to the group about the importance of contacting legislators concerning any bills that affect education or education budgets. He asked retired teachers to encourage young students to become teachers, the need is great. He reminded us that schools desperately need substitute teachers and there are still some open positions that schools cannot fill because of lack of qualified applicants. Teachers need to keep their ELIS account current on line because teachers certificate notices are only sent via email. The good news is that schools are in a much better financial position this year.

New Business: Election of Officers for 2020-2021. Donnie Ostrom was nominated for President. Motion by Janis Seiffert, second by Beth Pebbles. No other nominations were made and Donnie was elected by acclamation. There was no candidate for Vice President and no nominations from the floor. The office of Vice President will remain open at this time. Kay Ostrom was nominated for Secretary; motion by Carol Moeller, second by Paula Williams. No other nominations were made and Kay was elected by acclamation. Paula Williams was nominated for office of Treasurer. Motion by Donnie Ostrom and second by Leon Lubber; as there were no other nominations from the floor, Paula was elected by acclamation.

Kelley Kesterson, as a member of the IRTA Legislative committee, reported that there is no new legislation affecting our pension and benefits at this time. He encouraged all members to invite other retirees to the next meeting.

Membership report: There were 41 people in attendance and 2 spouses. Mary Ann appreciates that members RSVP before the next meeting so that she can contact the restaurant.

Donations to IRTA Foundation were collected and will be donated in memory of Jane Bachman, wife of Jim Bachman, Executive Director of IRTA. Jane passed away in late October.

A special thank you to Jan Kauling for serving more than a dozen years as Treasurer of Clinton County Retired Teachers Association. We appreciate a job well done.

Motion by Jan Wilsey and second by Patti Ritzheimer to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kay Ostrom, Secretary

CCRTA Financial Report: February 5, 2020

Checking Account Balance: \$323.91

Saving Account Balance: \$3,388.90

Thank you to Jan Kauling and Kelley Kesterson

We wish to thank Jan Kauling for serving more than a dozen years as Treasurer of CCRTA.

Kelley Kesterson served as Vice-President and President of CCRTA—two times.

We appreciate all the time and energy they gave to our organization.



2020-2022 CCRTA Officers



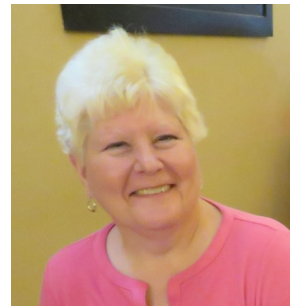
Don Ostrom,
President



Vice-President
WHO WILL VOLUNTEER



Kay Ostrom,
Secretary



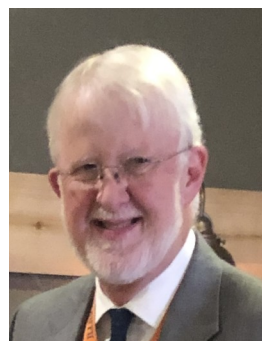
Paula Williams
Treasurer



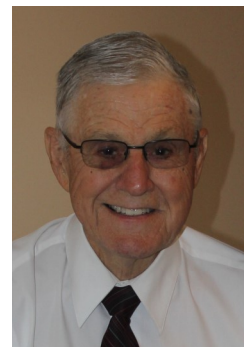
Mary Ann Kauling,
Membership



Cynthia O'Neil
Foundation



Kelley Kesterson,
Legislative Committee



Leon Lubber,
Benefits

How to Navigate the IRTA Website?

Quick Reference Guide

www.irtaonline.org



- **Creating a Profile - Members Only > Create Your Online Profile**

Password must be 8-20 characters long, contain letters and numbers, and must not contain spaces, special characters, or emoji.

- **Change Login Information - Members Only > Username/Password**

- **Finding Information - What are you looking for? Use Search Feature**



- Click on the IRTA Logo - Brings you back to the IRTA Homepage
- IRTA Staff (Association > Leadership)
- IRTA Map (Association > Local Units)
- Latest IRTA News (Members Only > Blog)
- Finding IRTA Leaders Contact Information (Members Only > Leadership & Committees > Click on the leadership information button you want.)
- IRTA Standing Rules/Constitution (Members Only > Publications & Documents > Click on the document button you want.)
- Register for Voter Voice (Members Only > Voter Voice)
- IRTAPAC (Political Action)
- IRTA Foundation (Foundation)
- IRTA Events & Trips (Members Only > Trips & Activities)
- Local Unit Contacts & Meeting Information (Association > Local Units > Click on the County from the Drop Down Menu > Click Go!)
- Member Benefits Information & Codes (Members Only > Membership Benefits)